





- **Updates on:**
 - **Annual Wolf Monitoring**
 - **Wolf Mortalities**
 - **Wolf sighting project**



Annual Wolf Monitoring 2014-2015

- **Spring 2015: 52 wolves/ 18,820 km²**
- **10 marked packs — 47 wolves (20 collars)**
- **1 uncollared pack — 4, Loner — 1**

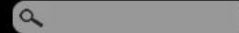


Annual Wolf Monitoring 2014-2015

- Young East Fork male, dispersed over 200 miles
- See details: www.nps.gov/articles/wolf_dispersal.htm



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Wolf Dispersal in Alaskan Parks

[Bering Land Bridge National Preserve](#), [Denali National Park & Preserve](#), [Yukon - Charley Rivers National Preserve](#)

Not All Who Wander are Lost: Following the Dispersal of Alaskan Wolves

Wildlife biologists have long known that wolves sometimes travel great distances in search of new mates and ranges. However, modern GPS-based wildlife tracking now allows researchers to follow in the very footsteps of wolves as they travel across vast and wild landscapes. Alaska National Park scientists have witnessed some surprisingly intimate interconnections



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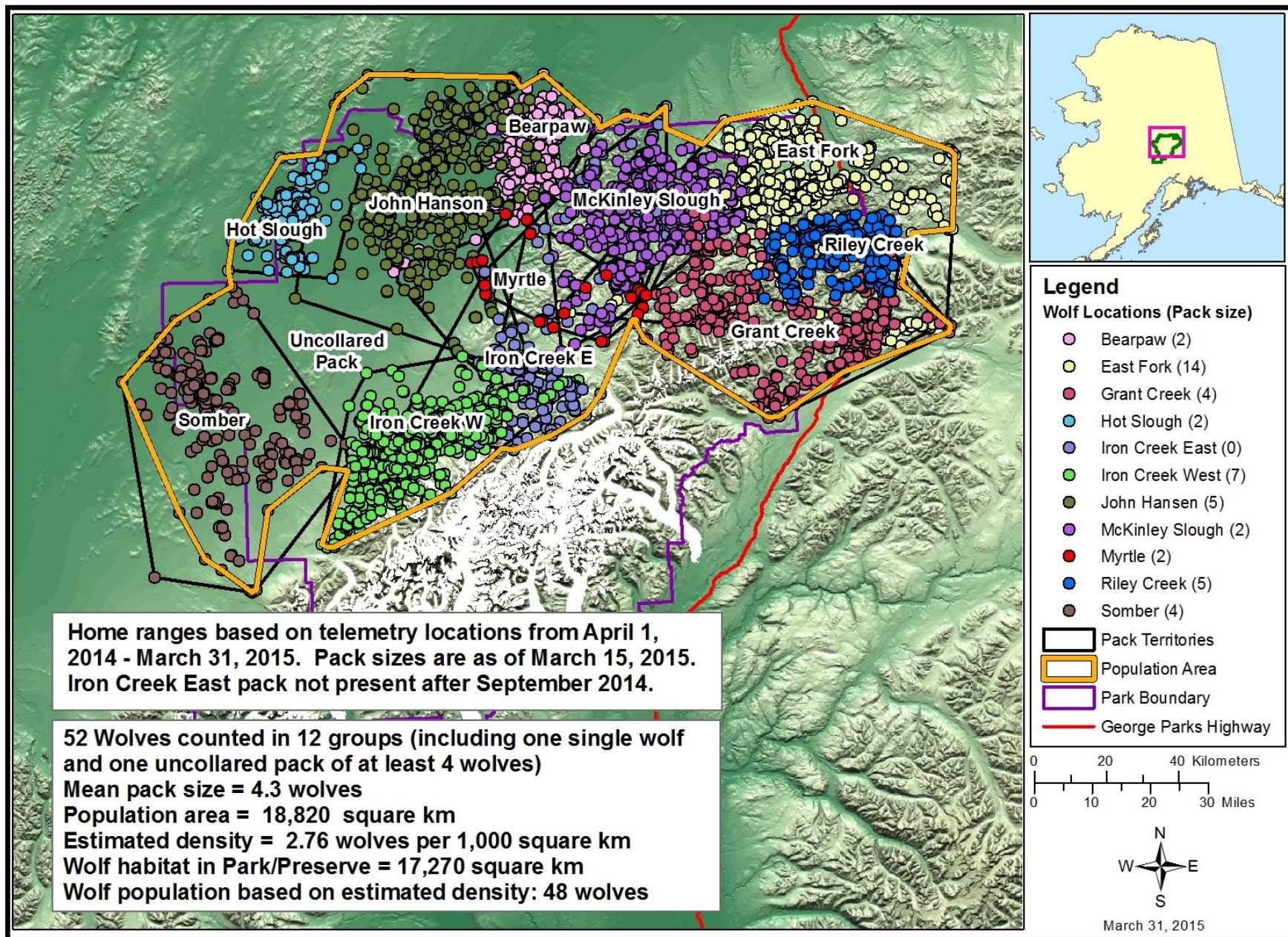
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Annual Wolf Monitoring 2014-2015

- **Iron Creek East- pack dissolved after both collared wolves died**
 - **Female died starvation**
 - **Male dispersed, then drowned**
- **Myrtle Pack- new pair located and collared in prior range**





Annual Wolf Monitoring 2014-2015

- **Density estimate: 2.8 wolves per 1000 km²**
- **Lowest density estimate since monitoring began (1986)**
 - **Increasing use of GPS collars, series of mild winters**
- **However, number of wolves has also declined**
- **Density 2001-2003: 5.6 - 6.4 wolves per 1000 km²**



Annual Wolf Monitoring 2014-2015

Causes of decline unknown, but several potential factors

Low snowfall, mild winters ➡ Reduced caribou vulnerability

Mech, L. D., L. G. Adams, T. J. Meier, J. W. Burch, and B. W. Dale. 1998. *The Wolves of Denali*. University of Minnesota Press, Minneapolis, MN, USA.



Annual Wolf Monitoring 2014-2015

Causes of decline unknown, but several potential factors

Poor pup recruitment- compare:

6 out of 10 packs, 14 pups

91% denning (72 of 79)

88% recruitment (63 of 72)

(in subset of eastern region packs, 1997-2012)

Borg, B. L., S. M. Brainerd, T. J. Meier, and L. R. Prugh. 2015. Impacts of breeder loss on social structure, reproduction and population growth in a social canid. *Journal of Animal Ecology* 84:177–187.



Annual Wolf Monitoring 2014-2015

Causes of decline unknown, but several potential factors

- **Mortality of wolves from human and natural causes**
 - **Source of on going monitoring and investigation**



- **Wolf Mortalities April 2014-March 2015**
- **9 collared wolves died**
 - **2 killed by wolves**
 - **5 other natural causes**
 - **1 drowned, 1 old age, 1 starve**
 - **2 unknown natural causes**
 - **1 legally shot (John Hansen female)**



Wolf Mortalities April 2014-March 2015

- **I snared**
 - **Young East Fork male**
 - **Captured, collared (VHF) March 2014 as 10 month pup**
 - **2 locations in January & February**
 - **Jan: outside park**
 - **Feb: at moose kill near Sanctuary River, recovered at site March 12**

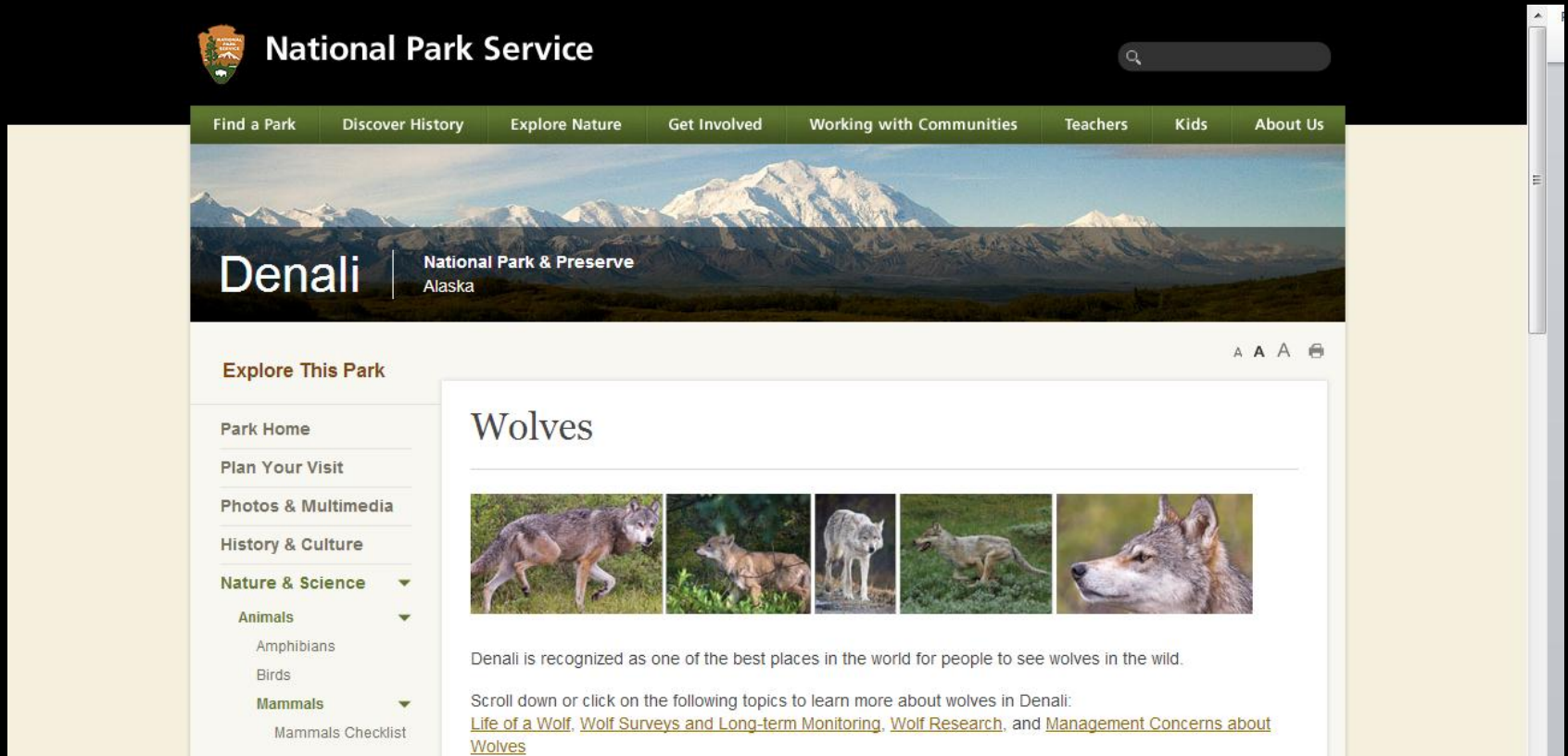


Wolf Mortalities Since March 2015

- **I starved: Loner (poodle male)**
- **I wolf killed: Somber male**
- **2 shot : East Fork male (collared), female (uncollared)**

For more information:

<http://www.nps.gov/dena/naturescience/wolves.htm>



The screenshot shows the National Park Service website for Denali National Park & Preserve. The header features the NPS logo and the text "National Park Service". Below this is a navigation bar with links: "Find a Park", "Discover History", "Explore Nature", "Get Involved", "Working with Communities", "Teachers", "Kids", and "About Us". The main banner image shows a snow-capped mountain range with the text "Denali" and "National Park & Preserve Alaska". Below the banner is a section titled "Explore This Park" with a sidebar menu containing links: "Park Home", "Plan Your Visit", "Photos & Multimedia", "History & Culture", "Nature & Science" (expanded), "Animals", "Amphibians", "Birds", "Mammals", and "Mammals Checklist". The main content area is titled "Wolves" and features a row of five images of wolves. Below the images, the text states: "Denali is recognized as one of the best places in the world for people to see wolves in the wild." It then says: "Scroll down or click on the following topics to learn more about wolves in Denali:" followed by links: "[Life of a Wolf](#)", "[Wolf Surveys and Long-term Monitoring](#)", "[Wolf Research](#)", and "[Management Concerns about Wolves](#)".

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